WHAT IS THE PROVINCIAL TUITION WAIVER PROGRAM?

- The program waives tuition and eligible fees for B.C. students who are current and former children or youth in care in B.C.
- It applies to programs and courses below the graduate level while studying full-time or part-time at one of the 25 B.C. public post-secondary institutions, the Native Education College, and approved union-based trades training providers.

WHAT IS THE LEARNING FOR FUTURE GRANT?

- The Learning for Future Grant provides an annual grant of $3,500 per program year to eligible current and former children or youth in care to assist with additional education related costs that are not covered by the Provincial Tuition Waiver Program (e.g. textbooks, computers, supplies, etc.).
- The grant is available to full-time or part-time students who meet the eligibility criteria for the Provincial Tuition Waiver Program, are enrolled in a program or course that leads, or will lead, to a credential and meets the minimum study period.

WHAT ARE THE ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA?

- Adopted through the B.C. Ministry of Children and Family Development (MCFD) or Indigenous Child and Family Service Agency (ICFSA); or
- Formerly in the Ministry of Social Development and Poverty Reduction’s Child in the Home of a Relative Program; or
- Currently or formally in any of the below B.C. MCFD or ICFSA Legal Statuses at the time you turn(ed) 19 or for at least 24 months (730 days).

Eligible Legal Statuses:
- Continuing Custody Order
- Temporary Custody Order
- Special Needs Agreement
- Voluntary Care Agreement
- Youth Agreement
- Extended Family Program
- Interim Custody Order
- Permanent Transfer of Custody Order
- Temporary Transfer of Custody
- Under the guardianship of a director pursuant to the Infants Act
- Under the guardianship of a director of adoption pursuant to the Adoptions Act

Quick Facts:

- The 2023 program expansion will create opportunities for approximately 50,000 current and former children or youth in care in B.C.
- Between program expansion implementation on August 1, 2023, and December 31, 2023, Provincial Tuition Waiver Program applications have increased by approximately 250% over the same period last year, with the majority of these students receiving the new Learning for Future Grant, and the average age of applicants rising from 20 to 25.
- Current and former children or youth in care students can access on-campus support from institution representatives to assist with the application process and connecting to wrap-around supports both on and off campus including cultural, health and wellness, and financial supports.
- As of January 2024, approximately 2,450 students have accessed the Provincial Tuition Waiver Program since 2017, resulting in over $19 million in tuition and fees waved.
- Students are enrolled in all types of programs - social work, academic arts, nursing, pre-medical studies, trades, business administration and graphic design.

Timeline:

- Budget 2023: $19.2 million over three years for the Provincial Tuition Waiver Program expansion
- Budget 2020: $4 million annually for the Provincial Tuition Waiver Program
- July 2018: expanded to 10 union trades training providers
- June 2018: Announced $250,000 contribution to the Youth Futures Education fund for additional wrap-around supports
- Budget 2018: $2 million annually for the Provincial Tuition Waiver Program
- September 2017: Expansion to all 25 public post-secondary institutions
- September 2017: A voluntary patchwork of bursaries and grants at 11 public post-secondary institutions

HOW DO I APPLY?

- Have a question? Email tuitionwaiver@gov.bc.ca
- Students can visit their institution’s financial aid office and complete an application form to validate their eligibility.

Visit the webpage StudentAidBC.ca/provincial-tuition-waiver-program or scan the QR code to learn more.
WHERE CAN I STUDY?

25 B.C. public post-secondary institutions, Native Education College, and approved union-based trades training providers.